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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Leading Communist Officials in Szprotawa/Adjacent Soviet Airfield/Soviet Billets in Szprotawa and elsewhere in the Zielonogorski Vovayvodship/Streptomycin Blackmarket at Zagan/General Attitudes in Szprotawa

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "Szprotawa has about 4,000 inhabitants. About 200 belong to the privileged class. This means they can use the UB shop, which stocks all sorts of goods unavailable on the ordinary market.
2. "The manager of the District National Council is Stanislaw Twardowski, a fanatic Communist. The most important Communist in Szprotawa is (fku) Bentkowski, a member of the City Council (Miejska Rada Narodowa). He is continuously making demagogical speeches, attacking the West and praising Stalin. Another agitator on the City Council is Stanislaw Malecki, who formerly headed the Factory Council at the Dolno-Slaskie Zaklady Metalurgiczne i Aparatury Chemicznej. He systematically persecutes intellectual workers.

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3. "No Polish troops are stationed in Szprotawa, but Soviet officers and airmen are billeted in the town and district -- about 3,000 in all. There are also over 1000 Soviet civilians (ie 25% of the total population) in Szprotawa. The airfield about 6 km east of Szprotawa is under Soviet control. This field has one asphalt runway. At the end is a 'jumping board' ('skocznia'),

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two meters high, from which jet planes are launched into the air. When this occurs, the highway near the field is closed to traffic for about 200m. There are eight large hangars at this field, and, [redacted] about 100 Soviet jet planes, probably MIG-15's. There are antiaircraft guns around the field. There are probably also armored troops ('bron pancerna') in the forests. They keep the sky white with searchlights during night exercises.

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Enclosure: (A) is a [redacted] very rough sketch showing the location of this airfield in relation to the town of Szprotawa.

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4. "Soviet airmen live in barracks in the forest rear the airfield and also occupy all the barracks ('Kozary') in the town. Soviet officers occupy the entire Ulica Kosciuszko quarter, as far as the cemetery. This is the best street in Szprotawa, crossing the whole town. The Soviets have confiscated all the houses from Plac Komuny Paryskiej as far as the point where the houses in the side streets nearest the Ulica Kosciuszko are also in Soviet hands. When the Soviets arrived just after the war, the Poles in that quarter got immediate orders from the Powiatowa Rada Narodowa to vacate their flats for Soviet families. The Ulica Kosciuszko is not closed off in any way; Poles can pass through without restriction.
5. "The Soviet politruks and soldiers living in barracks are seldom seen on the streets in the day, but Soviet officers and their families are everywhere. Although they have their own shops in the barracks, the Soviet women also go to Polish shops where they can buy everything out of queue. The Soviets have priority in all supply matters. After every slaughter they take over meat from the slaughterhouse so that the local population cannot obtain all the meat to which their rations entitle them. The Soviet women are elegantly dressed in furs and expensive dresses, but they have no taste, being too fat and too made-up. All of them work blackmarket deals with the Poles, who are forced to buy food or necessary articles of dress from them at exorbitant prices, in order to keep their families decent. But if the police catch any black marketeers, it is the Polish woman who is punished, never the Soviet. At night the Soviet soldiers flood the streets, monopolizing the restaurants and seeking women. Discipline among the Soviet soldiers has deteriorated considerably over the past year. Drunken brawls are a frequent occurrence; no respectable woman dares to leave her house after darkness. At public festivals ('zabawy ludowe') Soviet-provoked fights are a regular thing. Soviet soldiers want to dance with the Polish girls, who refuse. A general fight ensues.
6. "In the Zielonogorski Vovodship there are very few Polish troops; the Soviets dominate. As at Szprotawa, Soviets are billeted in Legnica. Soviet infantry are stationed in the large German barracks in the forest off the Kosuch-Zagan road near Zagan. Here, the blackmarket in streptomycin is flourishing -- 350 zl per gram. The market is supplied by the Soviets, and the buyers are Poles. It is now impossible for private persons to buy streptomycin legally in Poland. A unit of Soviet engineers ('pionieri') was recently billeted in Karolac, 12 km from Nowa Sol. They built a wooden pontoon bridge in Karolac in 1947. There are troops also in Boleslawiec, including, most probably, Poles. Glogow is the headquarters for a Polish RKU (military district for the drafting of reserves), a unit of Polish infantry and perhaps some engineering troops. Some troops were recently transferred from Neigeslawich to Strachow. There are Soviet airfields at Zagan and probably at Legnica, as the town is full of pilots.
7. "In the autumn of 1952 the Polish men born between 1927 and 1931 will be called up. In 1951, all men born between 1927 and 1931 were registered. Boys have a tremendous fear of the Army, as the service is indefinitely long. Though officially it is two years, nobody knows how long he will actually be kept. This results in desertions to the forest, or abroad -- if possible. Until 1951 it was quite easy to get one's military service adjourned -- by paying somebody 50,000 in the old currency, plus vodka and some dinners. Now this is virtually impossible, except for some relative of a very high officer. A family supporter ('zywiec rodzinny') gets adjournment only if he is an only child with parents over 60 and a farm to look after. Release

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is still given without difficulties to members of the UB and Militia, high Party bosses, and physical and political instructors.

8. "Usually Army reservist exercises take place during a six-week period in the autumn. In 1951 all men born in 1920 had to go from [] factory to these maneuvers. The factory paid them a full salary. In 1952 this policy has been cancelled. The drafted reservists will only receive their ordinary Army pay.

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9. [] there are still many partisans in the great forests of the Bialystok province. They do not engage in any activity at present, in order to escape unnecessary reprisals. No Soviet soldiers or Communist officials have recently been killed by these partisans. They try to keep passive and bide their time. Sometimes they visit villages to buy food. The peasants sympathize with them. If the peasants fear to sell, lest they fall short on their compulsory deliveries to the state or local cooperatives, the partisans issue statements that they have confiscated the food from the village. The partisans pay the peasants good prices. They leave documents that are stamped and dated.

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10. "Generally speaking, the people around Szprotawa do not believe that Poland will keep Lower Silesia for ever. They are afraid the Germans may return and therefore do not attach themselves too much to that soil. Those peasants who have come there from Eastern Poland feel a nostalgia for the farms of their ancestors and would prefer to return home. There is no incentive for the independent farmer. As soon as anybody has more than seven hectares he is considered a kulak. If he begins to prosper because of personal efficiency, or other circumstances, he comes under suspicion and is persecuted. The peasants do not care for their cattle as they used to. They make no efforts to increase their stock by careful breeding as they know that sooner or later the cattle will be taken by the kolkhoz. They prefer to kill calves secretly when they are born.

11. "Among the people of Szprotawa the emigrant leaders Anders and Mikolajczyk are most popular. [] Anders and Mikolajczyk were at odds with each other. People also speak of Zalaski."

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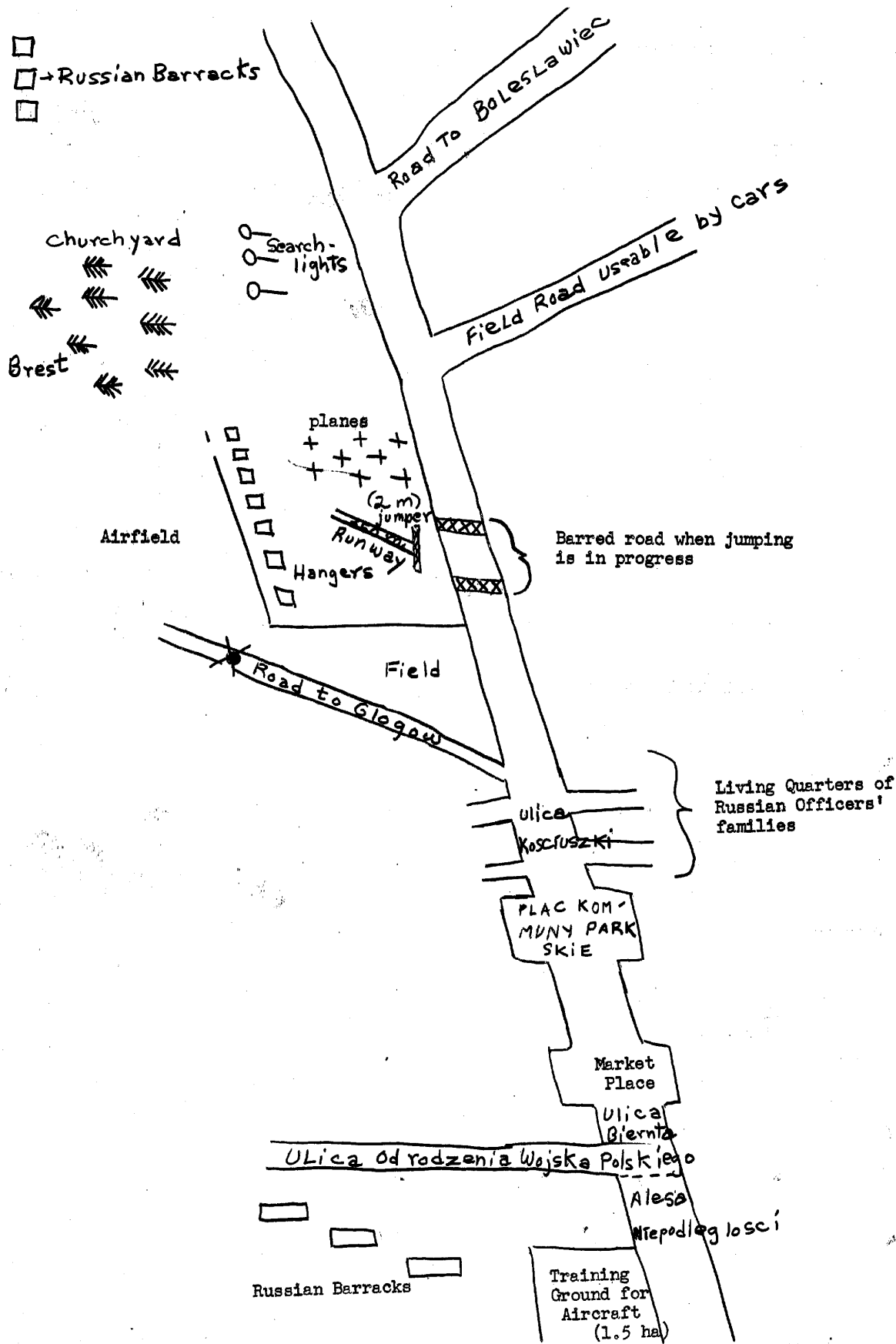
ENCLOSURE (A): Rough Sketch of Airfield Near Szprotawa

ENCLOSURE (A)

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Rough Sketch of Airfield Near Szprotawa
(proportions probably not correct)

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